

**THE AMERICAN VETERAN**  
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**SEGMENT: NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**Jim Benson, Host:** Secretary Of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson recently visited the Miami VA Medical Center to get a first-hand look at the new state-of-the-art prosthetics research and evaluation center. Nationally, VA has developed a wide array of rehabilitation and treatment centers, and operates nearly 60 prosthetic laboratories.

**Larry Barnett, former major league baseball umpire (to hospitalized veteran):** I thank you for your service to our country. Here is one of my baseball cards I have signed.

**Benson:** VA volunteers come from all sorts of backgrounds. Larry Barnett, a former American League umpire, has been visiting veterans at VA hospitals for over 30 years. He's been to every VA hospital in the system and gives out baseball cards of himself and an umpire's jacket with each visit.

**White House Announcer, as President Bush presents medal to veteran):** Major Crandall's voluntary decision to land under most extreme fire....

**Benson:** Army veteran Bruce Crandall received the Medal of Honor more than 40 years after his rescue of over 70 wounded soldiers in the battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam.

The military instills a strong work ethic, leadership skills and the ability to work with a diverse group of individuals. Employers are looking for just that skill set. Companies such as Union Pacific, Raytheon, Starbucks and Lending Tree are increasing military recruiting efforts. Workers with military backgrounds are plentiful with nearly 210 thousand veterans leaving the military in 2005. The Department of Veterans Affairs is the leading federal agency employing and contracting with disabled veterans.

**END OF VIDEO**